the modest request of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, which has said that it requires $254 million to provide humanitarian assistance through 2021.

Counterterrorism training and humanitarian assistance alone, however, are not enough to defeat ISIS in Mozambique. They are only tools to respond to the immediate crisis. To effectively address the root causes of the conflict—the social and economic inequalities that have allowed extremism to take hold and flourish—the Mozambican Government and international partners must assist in reaching the country's increasingly-alienated northern communities. The government must engage with its northern citizens and deliver what the majority of the population wants and expects: better governance and critical social services. The international community can help by collaborating and coordinating their engagement with the government on a package of development aid that helps to address poor governance, increases transparency and fights corruption, effectively delivers health and education services, and fosters job opportunities and local entrepreneurship. Mozambique and its international partners also must scale up programs aimed at countering extremist ideology and promoting defections from the insurgency.

Donors must also hold the government's feet to the fire on its obligation to invest it its own citizenry, including by insisting that the government develop its natural resources—notably the gas reserves in Cabo Delgado—in an equitable, transparent, manner that results in that a significant portion of prospective natural gas revenues being invested in the provinces that host Mozambique's gas resources.

As the conflict grows in scope and intensity, the United States will need to further develop a coordinated, interagency strategy, one which uses all the levers of American power—diplomatic, development, and defense—to address Cabo Delgado's military, humanitarian, and development crisis and to work with regional partners on to both inform and implement such a strategy.

The situation in Mozambique is dire, and unfortunately it has not attracted an appropriate level of attention from policymakers. It is tragic to see a country that seemed to be on the cusp of transformation dragged back into conflict. The situation is not hopeless. The United States and its partners can together effectively help Mozambique defeat this insurgency and support the Mozambican people's aspirations for a more hopeful future, but the situation is urgent. We must act now.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR BENNIE G. ADKINS (RET.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, it is with sadness and humility that I ask this body to pause for a moment to remember and honor a great American and a citizen of my home State, CSM Bennie G. Adkins, who died of complications related to the COVID–19 virus on April 17, 2020. He was laid to rest with full military honors this morning after a funeral service in the chapel at Arlington National Cemetery.

Command Sergeant Major Adkins, known to friends and family as ''Bennie,'' received the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on September 15, 2014, for acts of heroism during the Vietnam war. Although Bennie was recommended for the Medal of Honor at the time, he was instead given the next highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. In 2002, the Army began reviewing Distinguished Service Cross awards for possible upgrades, and finally, 48 years later, President Obama bestowed a well-deserved Medal of Honor upon Bennie Adkins.

As we know, the Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest medal for valor in combat. According to a statute passed in 1918, the President is authorized to present this award to ''each person who, while an officer or enlisted man of the Army, shall hereafter, in action involving actual conflict with an enemy, distinguish himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.'' Other legislation authorizes the award within the other military departments as well.

In the history of this country, the Medal of Honor has been awarded to 3,507 individuals. Fewer than 70 of those recipients are still alive today.

I point this out because I believe that when these heroes leave Active Duty and come home to live among us in our communities, their very presence in our midst lifts us all up. They inspire and embolden countless other acts of courage and sacrifice, both great and small, many of which we have seen in the recent weeks and months our Nation and our world have been battling the very virus that took Bennie Adkins' life.

So it is with gratitude and a deep sense of loss that we remember this extraordinary man.

The facts of the events that led to Bennie Adkins' recognition bear mention. However, as President Obama said when presenting Bennie with the Medal, ''I have to be honest, in a battle and daring escape that lasted four days, Bennie performed so many acts of bravery we actually don't have time to talk about all of them.'' I will, therefore, attempt to summarize, combining information from the citation that accompanied the award, media accounts of the events, and quotes from Bennie's memoir.

When Camp A Shau was attacked by a large Viet Cong force early on March 9, 1966, then-Sergeant First Class Adkins rushed through intense hostile fire to man a mortar position. Although wounded himself by incoming fire, Bennie briefly relinquished his mortar to a comrade and ran through exploding mortar rounds in order to drag several wounded Americans to safety. During the battle, Bennie later recalled, bullets hit and killed one man he was carrying on his back. At another point, Adkins, a former baseball catcher, caught a North Vietnamese hand grenade in midair and flung it back at the enemy.

Over the course of 4 days, Bennie repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire while rescuing and helping evacuate his fellow soldiers, retrieving additional munitions, and repelling repeated waves of attacking enemy soldiers. Bennie suffered 18 wounds—including to an eye and his torso—but managed to kill an estimated 135 to 175 enemy troops.

Because of his efforts to carry a wounded soldier to an extraction point rather than leave him behind, Bennie and his group were unable to reach the last evacuation helicopter. Running extremely low on ammunition, he returned to the mortar pit, gathered additional ammunition, and ran through intense fire back to the communications bunker. After being ordered to evacuate the camp, Adkins and the remaining small group destroyed all signal equipment and classified documents, then fought their way out of the camp and into the jungle, where they evaded the pursuing North Vietnamese Army for 2 days.

Their escape was aided by the sawed-off shotgun Bennie carried as a sidearm and by the unexpected intervention of an Indonesian tiger. Trapped in the jungle, the group's radio damaged in the battle, Adkins managed to rig his shotgun as an antenna, enabling him to communicate their location to friendly forces. As the group endured a second night in the jungle waiting for help to arrive, the tiger, which had been hunting nearby, frightened off the enemy, giving Adkins and the others an opportunity to create a makeshift landing pad for a rescue helicopter the next morning.

The Medal of Honor citation concludes, ''Sergeant First Class Adkins' extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.''

Extraordinary indeed.

Remarkable as those details are, the facts of Bennie's postservice life are equally worthy of note.

Bennie and his wife Mary were married for more than 60 years—until she passed away in 2019. They don't give medals for that, but I know from observing my own parents' 60-plus years together that, no matter who the couple are, that kind of dedication, loyalty, and commitment are special.

After 20 years of service in the Army, Bennie retired and went back to school. He earned three degrees from Troy University—a bachelor's in finance and two master's degrees—and opened his own accounting firm in Auburn. Then, Bennie began deploying his

charisma, his wit, his way with people, and his resources to help others pursue their goals through education.

For several years, Bennie taught night classes at Alabama's Southern Union Junior College and Auburn University, as well as GED classes at the local jail. Later, he established The Bennie Adkins Foundation, which to date has provided about 50 educational scholarships to noncommissioned Special Forces officers.

Bennie's dedication to the service of his country and to his fellow Americans never waned. For many years he traveled extensively, in what he described as his fourth career, ''trying to instill patriotism in our young people.'' And according to President Obama in 2014, ''the first thing you need to know is when Bennie and I met in the Oval Office, he asked if he could sign back up. His lovely wife was not amused.''

I know that for Bennie's family and his community, this is a loss impossible to describe or to measure. My wife Louise joins me in sending our sincerest condolences to Bennie's daughter Mary Ann Adkins Blake (David), to his sons Michael Adkins (Christine), and Keith Adkins (Jaime), and to his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

To paraphrase his Medal of Honor citation, Bennie Adkins' extraordinary life reflects great credit upon himself, his family, and his country. May he rest in peace, and may God bless the United States of America.

REMEMBERING GENERAL CHARLES ELWOOD ''CHUCK'' YEAGER

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an American hero and one of West Virginia's native sons who was larger than life and an inspiration for generations of Americans—General Charles Elwood ''Chuck'' Yeager. Chuck bravely served our Nation as a pilot for more than 30 years in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and Vietnam. When he became the first pilot to break the sound barrier he challenged each of us to test the limits of what is possible. I am grateful to have known this legendary West Virginian and to call him my dear friend.

Chuck truly embodied what it means to be from the Mountain State. Born in 1923 in rural Lincoln County, Chuck grew up the way many of us do in West Virginia—hunting and fishing and learning early to be respectful of nature and our fellow man. Like his father, A. Hal Yeager, who was a gaswell driller, Chuck showed an aptitude for mechanics, and by the time he was a teenager, he was able to assemble a car engine on his own. His work ethic and natural talent would serve him well throughout the rest of his remarkable life.

In 1941, Chuck enlisted in the Army Air Forces right out of high school and trained as a mechanic before heading to flight school. In 1944, he experienced a harrowing encounter when his plane was shot down over German-occupied France. He and another American travelled on foot through mountainous terrain and snow toward neutral Spain. As they stopped to rest, the Nazis opened fire, wounding the man traveling with Chuck. Chuck carried him into Spain, where they met British forces. Despite the treacherous journey he had just endured, to everyone's astonishment, Chuck was determined to fly again. He climbed his way through the ranks, pursuing a return to combat duty, which was eventually granted. For his service, Chuck received the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Air Medal. He also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian award, from President Ronald Reagan in 1985. There are so few Veterans left from the World War II era, and it is our responsibility and our privilege to recognize the service of these noble heroes.

In 1957, Chuck became an air squadron commander and then commander of the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards in 1961. He also commanded a fighter wing and flew combat missions during the Vietnam war. He retired as an Air Force brigadier general in 1975, and in an honorary gesture, he was promoted to the rank of major general in 2005.

We all of course know the story of the day Chuck became the first pilot to break the sound barrier. On October 14, 1947, Chuck flew an orange Bell X–1 aircraft at nearly 700 mph and made history. Flying F–15 planes, he broke the sound barrier again on the 50th and 55th anniversaries of his pioneering flight, and he was a passenger on an F–15 plane in another breaking of the sound barrier to commemorate the 65th anniversary.

I knew Chuck very well and he was a dear friend to me and Gayle. As Governor, I was fortunate to host Chuck at least once a year for the One Shot Deer Hunt, which gives proceeds to helping the hungry. He told me so many incredible stories of his service, including all the intricate details of his legendary flight. I recall him telling me that the only reason he got to fly the Bell X–1 that day was because the previous pilot they asked wanted too much money. They offered Chuck an extra 60 dollars a month, and he jumped at the chance. Not only is the story true about Chuck pushing through with a broken rib, but he wasn't even supposed to break the sound barrier that day. He thought if he didn't go for it that first day, he wouldn't get another chance. Chuck truly had nerves of steel.

Long after his record-breaking flight, Chuck remained in our hearts as a symbol of patriotism and bravery. His life is full of tales of his bravery, his stoicism in the face of danger, and his determination to perform his duty no matter the cost.

The legacy Chuck leaves is such an important part of our heritage as West Virginians. Our little State has mined the coal that forged the steel that built the tanks and ships that keep our country the strongest in the world. It is an honor to remember Chuck as part of our military service heritage and our way of life that sinks deep into the roots of West Virginia's rich culture. I encourage all Americans to learn what they can about this legendary West Virginian.

Gayle and I are praying for Chuck's wife Victoria, daughters, Susan and Sharon, son, Don, and all who loved and admired him.

RECOGNIZING OREGON'S FIRST FEMALE EAGLE SCOUTS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am proud to be able to recognize Oregon's first female Eagle Scouts, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America, or BSA. Evelyn Becker, Juliana Cimral, and Anya Kramer have demonstrated remarkable leadership, skill, and perseverance to earn this important distinction and have done it through an unprecedented pandemic.

For more than 100 years, the Eagle Scout rank has represented a tremendous accomplishment that is recognized in Oregon and across the country. To earn Scouting's highest honor, a Scout must demonstrate mastery of numerous skills and obtain a merit badge for each one, earn a position of responsibility within their troop, and complete a service project that will directly benefit their community. Until recently, girls and young women were not allowed to join BSA, but that finally changed for the better in February of 2019. Evelyn, Juliana, and Anya, Oregon's first three female Eagle Scouts, received their rank in October and will join others in receiving their official Eagle title in February 2021.

We can see examples of their skills and dedication to improving their community in the Eagle service projects they tackled. Juliana, a senior at Jesuit High School, employed her knowledge of and interest in bees and the importance these pollinators play in the food supply chain to build 25 bee houses that have increased the pollination and production of nearby gardens. Evelyn, a sophomore at Scappoose High School, built a fence to separate her local school from a busy highway and a bioswale to prevent children from falling into the water and to help improve the safety of her community. Anya, a freshman at Western Oregon University, spent months building a partnership between the West Linn Food Pantry and Period.org so that women in need would have access to feminine hygiene products, an often overlooked essential.

It has been exciting to see the BSA finally welcoming the other half of the population into their ranks. Each of these three women watched their brothers succeed in Boy Scouts while